AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An addition ~~Addition~~ salt comprising: ~~of~~ azithromycin and citric acid, in which the molar ratio between the azithromycin and the citric acid is such as to provide a pH between 4.0 and 6.0 in a 10% aqueous solution, ~~characterized in that it~~ and wherein said addition salt is azithromycin hydrogen citrate.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1 ~~characterized in that it includes~~ further comprising up to 8 % by weight of water.

5. (Currently Amended) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it further includes~~ further comprising up to 6 % by weight of water.

6. (Currently Amended) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, which further ~~contains~~ comprises up to 3 % of residual matter.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim ~~2 and 4~~ 1, ~~characterised in that with~~ wherein when the molar ratio of azithromycin and citric acid ~~being~~ is 1:1 a pH of 5 is provided in a 10 % aqueous solution.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing an addition salt of azithromycin ~~and citric acid~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a) dissolving azithromycin in a solvent or mixture of solvents;

b) adding citric acid; and

c) isolating the product obtained.

13. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in~~ further comprising that azithromycin is dissolved in monohydrated form in step (a).

14. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in~~ further comprising that azithromycin is dissolved in dihydrated form in step (a).

15. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in~~ further comprising that the solvent is selected from: water; the linear or branched C1-C6 aliphatic alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol; cyclic aliphatic alcohols, such as cyclohexanol; diols/ such as ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,3-propanodiol, 1, 4-butanodiol; linear or branched C1-C6 aliphatic ketones, such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone; cyclic aliphatic ketones, such as cyclohexanone; short-chain aliphatic esters, such as ethyl acetate; short- chain aliphatic ethers, such as ethylic ether, isopropylic ether, etc.; cyclic aliphatic ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane, or mixtures thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim [15] 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the azithromycin monohydrate or dihydrate is dissolved; and the solvent is selected from water, alcohols, ketones, esters or ethers, or mixtures thereof, preferably water, ethanol, acetone, methyl acetate or tetrahydrofuran, or mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 16~~ claim 12, ~~for the preparation of azithromycin hydrogen citrate, characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of adding an amount of citric acid ~~is added~~ in step (b) such that the molar ratio between the azithromycin and the citric acid is close to the stoichiometric.

18. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 17~~ claim 12, for the preparation of azithromycin hydrogen citrate, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising in step (c) the salt is isolated by crystallization.

19. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein step c) further comprises:

c-i)crystallising at a crystallization temperature between 25°C and the solvent's reflux temperature; and

c-ii) cooling the mixture at a temperature between 0°C and 25°C, before separating the cystals.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing solutions of an addition salt of azithromycin ~~and citric acid~~ according to Claim 1, in water or water-alcohol mixtures [of] containing up to 65 % of said salt, which ~~consists on~~ comprises: dissolving the azithromycin hydrogen citrate in water or water-alcohol mixtures and filtering the solution obtained.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of an azithromycin salt according to any of Claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a medicament for the~~ A method for the therapeutic treatment of an infection caused by bacteria or protozoans, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of an azithromycin salt according to any of Claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention~~ A method for the preventive treatment of an infection caused by bacteria or protozoans, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1.

28. (New) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 1, wherein said addition salt is in solid state.

29. (New) Addition salt of azithromycin according to Claim 2, wherein said addition salt is in crystalline solid state.